

Story 1845 (1984 Tape 6)

Narrator: Ali Çiftçi, farmer; at the time of this taping, he must have been in his late 60s or early 70s

Location: Çıkırıkçı village, Sarıkaya kaza, Yozgat Province

Date: March 1984

A Dream of Ebu Bekir¹

One night Ebu Bekir had a dream. It was a dream about Doomsday. In his dream he saw people going to the place of the Last Judgment.² He later described what he saw.

“When I went there I saw a great crowd of people.³ There were several special people seated above the crowd on a golden platform which was lighted by both the sun and the moon at the same time. I asked an angel, ‘Who are those people sitting up there on that platform?’

“The angel answered, ‘They are prophets.’

¹He was the first caliph. (The caliphs succeeded Mohammed as the administrators of Islam; they were not prophets.) The Arabic form of Ebu Bekir’s name is usually Abu Bakr.

²The term mahşer is used for the gathering place on the Day of Judgment.

³There is a Turkish proverbial expression as crowded as Judgment Day. Supposedly all of the dead from the beginning of time will rise to be judged.

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“I then asked, ‘Why are they waiting?’

“‘They are waiting for Prophet Mohammed,’ the angel said.

“I next asked, ‘Where is Prophet Mohammed?’

“The angel answered, ‘He is under the highest dome of heaven.’⁴

“‘I am a servant and a good friend of the Prophet. In the name of Allah I ask that you take me to the Prophet.’ When I got up there, I saw the Prophet holding up the dome of heaven with one hand and holding the gate of hell with his other hand.

“The Prophet Mohammed was pleading with Allah in this way: ‘O Allah, forgive the sins of my people.’

“Allah answered, ‘O my dear Mohammed, do not worry so much about them. Do not be so concerned about them. Your people steal things, they fornicate, they murder, and they do other forbidden things.’

“Mohammed replied, ‘Yes, my Allah, they do all those things, but they never search for or talk about anyone who is greater than You or even equal to You.’ This was the way in which Prophet Mohammed was pleading.

⁴The term used here is arṣ-1 rahman.

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“Just at that point in my dream there was a knock on the door which awakened me. It was Ömer,⁵ who had come to my house. I explained to Ömer what I had seen in my dream. As he was leaving, I said to Ömer, ‘I am still wondering whether Allah would forgive half of the people or possibly all of them.’

“Later that day I received an answer to what had been puzzling me. I could not determine where in the house the sound came from, but I heard a great voice speaking. It said, ‘I caused all of them to be forgiven!’”

⁵Ömer was the second caliph, Ebu Bekir’s successor.